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4 October 1982

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT

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ANGOLA

BRIEFS

DELEGATION TO LUSOPHONE MEETING--Luanda, 21 Sep (ANGOP)--Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, has been in the Cape Verdian capital since yesterday. He will participate there in the fourth summit of heads of state of the five Portuguese-speaking countries which opens in Praia today. The Angolan delegation includes Faustino Muteka, minister of transport and communications; Paulo Pinto Joao, secretary of state for cooperation; Mario Nelson, deputy minister of planning and Joao Abel das Neves, deputy governor of the Angolan National Bank. [Excerpts] [AB211059 Luanda ANGOP in French 0929 GMT
]1 Sep 82]

CSO: 4719/1414

COMORO ISLANDS

PRESIDENT DISCUSSES DOMESTIC, FOREIGN AFFAIRS

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 31 Jul-6 Aug 82 pp 27-29

[Interview with Ahmad 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Rahman, the President of the Comoro Islands, by 'Abd-al-Latif al-Furati: "The President of the Comoro Islands Tells AL-MAJALLAH: 'The Arabs Rejected Us; They Did Not Accept Us In the Arab League Although We Are More Arab Than the Inhabitants of Djibouti or Somalia; Libya Has Not Offered Us One Franc in Aid"; date and place not specified]

[Text] He is a tall man, with Arab features, swarthy, a skillful and spontaneous speaker. His movements and reactions are governed by his emotions. This is President Ahmad 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Rahman, the president of the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoro Islands.

He has tasted the sweetness of power and he learned the meaning of exile before returning to the seat of authority. His family traces its ancestry to Muhammad. They came from Hadramaut and he says with certainty that they are descendants of the Prophet. He decided to enter the battlefield of politics after World War II as a deputy in the French Parliament, and later in the French Senate as a representative of the Comoro Islands. In the early 1970's after the proclamation of local rule by the French he assumed the leadership of the local government. In 1975 he unilaterally proclaimed his country's independence after France prolonged the negotiations for independence. France punished him by withdrawing its experts and teachers working in the islands. Only a month after independence there was a revolution led by an agricultural engineer named 'Ali Salih who acted in a revolutionary manner the like of which the world has never seen. During this period Mr Ahmad 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Rahman had to endure two bitter experiences: loss of power and exile. However, he later returned to power under questionable circumstances on 13 May 1978. Since then he has been the islands' undisputed ruler.

He received us in his office in traditional Comoro Islands fashion. We were told that this was also the fashion of certain parts of the Gulf region, particularly Oman and Aden. In his office we had a splendid interview with him, exclusive to AL-MAJALLAH.

[Question] A visitor to the Comoro Islands cannot help but notice that the most important thing on the minds of the citizens and the government is the matter of Mayotte Island. You were recently in France where you held talks with President Francois Mitterrand. Can you tell us what the most important results of your talks with the French president were with regard to the status of this island and the possibility of its return to the national fold?

(Note: The Comoro archipelago consists of four islands: Great Comoro, Anjouan, Moheli and Mayotte. In a 1974 referendum a majority voted for independence. France, however, under pressure from Mr Michel Debre who was then the governor of neighboring Reunion Island, changed its view of the referendum and separated the island of Mayotte from the archipelago because 64 percent of its inhabitants had voted against independence.)

[Answer] While Mr Mitterrand was in the left-wing opposition he took a clear position in favor of returning Mayotte to the Comoros. During my talks with President Mitterrand he assured me that he was not the kind of man who changes his position when his circumstances or responsibilities change. This means that France approves of returning Mayotte to the Comoros. The French president himself supports its return. However, this return involves self-confidence and confidence in the local and international institutions which can help us, such as the Islamic Congress, the OAU and the United Nations. With this confidence that we have I also have confidence in France which can solve this problem which to France is a simple one. This is a solution to which we will continue to adhere so that we can remain friends with France. We want to maintain good relations based on mutual respect and cooperation with France and with other countries, such as your own, Tunisia.

[Question] Will you resort to attempting other solutions if peaceful efforts fail?

[Answer] We are a small country with limited resources and capabilities. We have the example of the Malvinas and what happened to Argentina after it attempted to take back its islands in the Atlantic. We will not take risks; we know our limitations. But that does not mean that we will not continue to make diplomatic efforts and use every means available to recover our island and extend our sovereignty over it.

[Question] You recently returned from Saudi Arabia where you had gone to express condolences on the death of King Khalid. On this occasion you apparently held important discussions with the Saudi leaders, especially since your country currently needs assistance. What was the outcome of these talks?

[Answer] I went to Saudi Arabia not to discuss assistance that might be given to us and not to ask for money, but because of the death of the great King Khalid. I had been in Paris at the time of his death, and I went directly to the Saudi embassy where I signed the condolence register. I had strong ties with the late king, having met him three times. I found him a remarkable man. I went to Saudi Arabia to deliver condolences to the Saudi leaders for myself personally and on behalf of the government and people

of the Comoros who felt deeply over the death of King Khalid. In fact, I expressed these feelings to the royal family and King Fahd directly.

As regards discussing any other matters I assure you this visit was for a specific purpose and was limited to that. This is despite the fact that King Fahd asked me to specify my country's assistance requirements. In response I told him that I had not come to Saudi Arabia for this purpose despite my country's current difficulties. For example, we have not been able to pay the salaries of government employees for four months.

Relations With the Arabs

[Question] Can you inform us about the state of relations between the Comoros and the Arab world in general, and the prospects for the future?

[Answer] We have excellent relations with Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Kuwait and several other Arab countries. We consider all the Arab countries as brother countries. However, it must be said that some of those countries are not only brothers, but friends, but I will not name them. They know who they are. We have close relations with Tunisia. We will never forget that Tunisia and Belgium were the only two countries to offer us assistance unhesitatingly during a critical period. After we were punished by France for unilaterally declaring independence, and French managerial personnel and educators were withdrawn your country rushed in, despite their own need for these trained cadres, to offer them to us so that we could reopen our schools. We were able to do so thanks to you and certain Belgians. We will never forget this as long as we live. However, I want to tell you that we are Moslems but not Arabs. You must understand this once and for all.

The Arabs Rejected Us

[Question] We come to the core of the matter. It seems that the Comorians were deeply affected by the rejection of their request, submitted in 1978, to join the Arab League.

[Answer] We are not an Arab country like Djibouti or Somalia. We are Africans. If that is what you want, so be it. We have our direct descendants of Muhammad. We are a country with great families of pure Arab descent just like you have. But the Arabs rejected us. They have refused to accept us in the Arab League. Today we thank them. We are not in the Arab League. Thus we do not stand by you with hands tied with regard to the Iraq-Iran war, and we do not stand with you watching what has happened and is happening in Lebanon.

[Question] We know that the Comoro Islands' application to join the Arab League was submitted during a difficult period. Egypt was preparing to conclude the Camp David agreement and the Arab world, including the Arab League, was in turmoil. What if you resubmitted your application? Do you still believe in the Arabness of your country?

[Answer] No, never. I am not the kind of person who has the door slammed in his face and then knocks again.

[Question] Do I sense a feeling of bitterness?

[Answer] We submitted an application and have never withdrawn it. The ball is now in the Arabs' court, especially since we have never even received a reply.

[Question] You mean you have never received an official reply to your application for membership?

[Answer] Never. They ignored us.

[Question] But an Arab League delegation came here to investigate the Arabness of the Comoro Islands.

[Answer] Many Arab delegations have come, and still come. Our application has been submitted. We will not say anything and will not renew it whether you accept us or not. So far no one has told us that our application was rejected. We do not want to submit another so that we are not faced with the same situation again. We do not want to feel inferior to you. This is not Islamic behavior. Do you suppose that the Comorians are not Arab because they do not speak Arabic? We are more Arab than the inhabitants of Djibouti and Somalia. Many of us have preserved our family trees which are traced back to various parts of the Arab world, such as Aden and Iraq. I, for example, am from a family from Hadramaut, and can prove it. As for those of Omani ancestry, speak. There is no objection. We know you, and we know you well. But you do not know us. (President 'Abd-al-Rahman spoke with great emotion and bitterness.)

[Question] But we are here to get to know you firsthand. Has anyone preceded us?

[Answer] You Tunisians really know us well. We are greatly indebted to you. Your teachers teach our children and make great sacrifices. We will never forget what you have done, and we will never forget the successful technical cooperation between you and us.

[Question] But is there anyone besides the Tunisians?

[Answer] Yes indeed. Kuwait is giving us a great deal of help.

[Question] How about your position on Lebanon which along with the Palestinian people is going through a terrible ordeal?

[Answer] We are deeply affected by what is happening to our Lebanese and Palestinian brothers. Despite the long distance between us, and our limited capabilities I will say it once and not add anything more: If the Arabs are prepared to fight we are ready to fight alongside them. I will say nothing more than that.

[Question] You recently received an invitation from President al-Qadhdhafi to attend the African summit conference in August. Will you attend this summit while the Africans, as we see it, are divided on the question of acceptance or non-acceptance of the Saharan Republic in the OAU?

[Answer] I might go and I might not, depending on circumstances.

[Question] But do you have good relations with Libya?

[Answer] As a matter of fact, I have visited Libya several times. But let me speak frankly. Libya has not offered us one franc in aid.

[Question] Is the Sahara problem the factor that will determine the Comoro Islands' attendance or non-attendance at the African summit?

[Answer] In effect there are now two opposing camps in the OAU.

[Question] Which of the two camps are you in?

[Answer] You know which camp.

[Question] Could you be more explicit Mr President?

[Answer] We are in the same camp as Tunisia and Senegal. If there is a return to law and if the seat which has been given in an entirely unlawful manner to the Republic of the Sahara is withdrawn then we will be prepared to attend and discuss the serious things.

[Question] How do you see the future of the Comoro Islands? What steps will you take to develop this country which seems to have great potential despite its evident poverty?

[Answer] We must have ample possibilities for developing our country. Our sister countries have these possibilities in great abundance. We can develop the fishing industry in the Comoro Islands and thus provide enough protein for our inhabitants. We can develop tourism up to a point as long as our society's equilibrium is not disturbed. We can develop farming. We can build roads and ports. There are really great possibilities for development. We can make the Comoro Islands into a true paradise. But that will require the assistance of our sister countries who have abundant resources. We want to develop ourselves. We are striving to do that but within the framework of Islam. We call upon our brother Arabs to help us. Unfortunately this call has so far not fallen upon receptive ears, and that's that.

[Question] A final question. How do you see the internal situation of the Comoro Islands, particularly after elections were recently held which were said to have been normal and democratic, which is a rarity in Africa? Do you intend to give the country more democracy, such as allowing a multi-party system?

[Answer] Not that. We tried a multi-party system and it did not work well. We have no intention of going back to that. Even the African countries which have resorted to that have begun to change their mind. Democracy is not necessarily a multi-party system. We held elections here which were an example of democracy. The candidates competed vigorously, and the people chose the one they wanted in complete freedom. This is democracy.

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CSO: 4704/25

TRADE MINISTRY DENIES GENERAL PRICE INCREASE

AB161920 ACCRA Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 16 Sep 82

[Text] The Ministry of Trade has denied that there have been general price increases. It made it clear that there is no truth whatsoever in the rumors in parts of the country about increases in the price of milk, milo, textiles and other items.

A statement signed by the secretary for the ministry, Mr Ashiboe Mensah, explained that the only items whose prices have been increased are toilet soaps and margarine. It said the price increases have become necessary because of the decision to use local oil instead of imported raw material to produce soap and as a general program to conserve foreign exchange. The program for the increased use of local raw material is important if any meaningful production in the country's factories is to go on.

The statement noted that this year a lot of factories have either closed down or are working dangerously near zero capacity for lack of raw materials or more correctly for lack of foreign exchange. Some of these factories, especially the textile and agrobased ones, can use locally-produced materials. The soap factories are facing the same fate of impending closure. Rather than close them down and do without soap, it was thought better to keep them open by forcing the country to produce the oil which is the basic raw material for soap; and the price for this decision is to increase the price of the product and more essential is an increase in the efforts to produce the raw material locally.

The statement points out that this situation can only be reversed if there is increased production of palm oil, and the Ministry of Trade has been assured that there are enough oil palm plantations in the country capable of providing sufficient raw materials, not only for the soap industry, but also for direct domestic consumption.

The statement attributed the shortage of palm oil to the fact that virtually all of the palm plantations are overgrown with weed, thereby making it impossible for the workers to get at the palm trees for harvesting. It is estimated that more than 50 percent of palm fruits that ripen every year get rotten because of inaccessibility to them. Therefore, increased oil

palm production is only possible if all the palm plantations, both private and public, are rehabilitated.

The statement therefore appealed to the people to organize themselves in their regions and local areas wherever there are oil palm plantations for an immediate rehabilitation program. This is a challenge to the entire nation, the statement added.

CSO: 4700/1957

EDUCATION SECRETARY ADDRESSES PEACE CORPS WORKERS

AB172041 ACCRA Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 17 Sep 82

[Text] The Provisional National Defense Council Secretary for Education Miss Ama-Attah Aidoo, today asked Peace Corps volunteers in the country to contribute to the revolutionary process in spite of the limitations of Ghana's environment.

Addressing 46 American volunteers at a swearing-in ceremony at Akropong-Akwapim, Miss Ama-Attah Aidoo said the training program they had gone through in the past 9 weeks should equip them enough to be meaningfully involved in the nation's activities. Miss Ama-Attah Aidoo said they would experience the most challenging times but hoped their presence would inspire the youth among whom they would work. She said Ghana's revolutionary process has started to put some very badly needed dynamism into the educational system, and that the nation was breaking away from the negative orientation to agriculture to encourage students in farming. The secretary appealed to the volunteers to contribute in such activities in schools.

Miss Ama-Attah Aidoo referred to benefits to the country from Peace Corps volunteers over the past 20 years and asked them to tell the Ghanaian youth the truth about America. She urged them to stress to the youth the importance of hard work and added that by doing this they would be doing a great job.

The Peace Corps director in Ghana, Mr Wilfredo Gonzales, swore in the volunteers. Forty-three of them will work with the Ghana education service and 3 with the Ministry of Agriculture.

CSO: 4700/1957

BRIEFS

PUBLISHERS' TAX CLEARANCE REQUIRED--The government has directed that with effect from the 6th of next month, no newspaper will be allowed to be published unless it declares its tax clearance certificate number and other particulars to the Ministry of Information. An official statement issued in Accra yesterday further directs all publishers to collect registration forms from the acting director of the information services department for completion. According to the statement, all publishers of newspapers except LOTO and sports papers are to submit their publishing cost and the price of a copy of their newspaper to the acting director of information services department before the 30th of this month. The statement warned that any publisher who does not comply with the directives will have himself to blame. [Text] [AB210637 ACCRA Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 21 Sep 82]

SPARE PARTS STORES WARNED--All spare parts stores and dealers throughout the country have been given 2 weeks to sell their items at government approved prices or have themselves to blame. They have also been advised to make sure that spare parts given them are sold at the counter and not through any third party. Speaking to newsmen in Accra today, the interim national chairman of the Ghana Private Road and Transport Union [GPRTU], Mr Aikins, said after the deadline any store still selling above the control price would be taken over by the GPRTU. [Excerpt] [AB172120 ACCRA Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 17 Sep 82]

CSO: 4700/1957

DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL GROWTH CENTERS DESCRIBED

Blantyre MALAWI NEWS in English 4-10 Sep 82 p 5

[Article by Willie Zingani]

[Text]

BRIGHT lights do not only attract insects. They attract human beings as well.

How many rural people have been lured by the city lights only to find that life in the cities is not as bright after all? One factor which has contributed to the urban drift in many developing countries has been the lack of social amenities — schools, clinics and entertainment.

Malaŵi is coming up with its own answer to discourage the urban drift. She is bringing the city to the village through the establishment of rural growth centres, which will act as focal points for development in remote areas of Malaŵi.

At present three of the 10 centres on the pilot project which started in 1978 have been completed at Thekerani in Thyolo, Nkhota in Kasungu, Mbalachanda in Mzimba District.

The other seven centres included in the programme are Bolero in Rumphu, Chikwina and Likoma in Nkhata Bay, Lobi in Dedza, Makanjila in Mangochi, Tsangano in Ntcheu, and Neno in Mwanza District.

Fifteen more centres will be established when the project enters its first phase next year.

The planning and implementation of this long term, national programme is being undertaken in close co-operation with other relevant ministries and departments such as Ministries of Agriculture, Health, Education, Local Government, and the Town Planning Department and projects like the National Rural Development Programme, District Road Improvement, Rural Water Supply Scheme, Afforestation and Fuelwood Plantation Projects.

Financial and technical assistance for the rural growth centres has come from the German government.

The Malaŵi and German governments agreed in principle in 1980 to continue the Rural Growth Centre Project beyond the present pilot phase in the frame work of a long term, rolling programme in all the districts of Malaŵi.

MINI TOWN

When we visited the Thekerani Rural Growth Centre recently, the Member of Parliament for

Thyolo South, Mr. Wandale Thupuwela said that by the year 2000, the people there wanted the centre to be a complete town with all the social facilities that are now available in other urban centres. The year 2000 has been declared by the World Health Organisation as a target date for providing health for all.

Everybody around Thekerani is proud of the mini-city which is slowly developing at a place that was once an isolated village. With a modern rest house, hospital, market, post office, primary, carpentry workshop, community centre hall and a football ground, the people there see no point for going to live in a city.

"These days if I want to go to Blantyre, it's only for major shopping, and that is just once or twice a year," said a banana seller. "Otherwise there is everything here."

Mr. Wandale Thupuwela said that it was a new experience for the people around Thekerani to have the Area Republic Celebrations held at the centre. He added that sometimes

bands come to play at the community hall, and that provides the entertainment that would pull the young generation to cities.

Last year people living around Mbalachanda Rural Growth Centre in Mzimba District were also visited by Chancellor College Travelling Theatre which presented performances on rural life.

PLAYS

The theatrical improvisation was used to highlight some of the problems experienced everyday by villagers, and to stimulate enthusiasm for development projects and to show how the problems can be overcome.

The plays visualised the importance of good sanitation, especially the use of pit latrines, proper farming methods on the main cash crop in the area, the oriental tobacco.

CUSTOMS REGIONAL COOPERATION EMPHASIZED

Blantyre DAILY TIMES in English 8 Sep 82 p 1

[Text]

REGIONAL Co-operation in Customs and training of Customs personnel are important in order to combat smuggling and other ways of duty payment evasion, a senior official from the Department of Customs and Excise said today.

Opening a four-day second regional Customs Co-operation Council meeting being attended by Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, South Africa and Malawi, the official said strengthening of regional co-operation in Customs and training of staff were some of the topics of regional concern which will be taken up at the meeting.

The meeting is also being attended by the Secretary General of the International Customs Co-operation Council, Sir Ronald Radford, who is based in Brussels, Belgium.

The official pointed out that some of the problems that Customs

administrations face in developing countries are external. He said Customs administrations in these countries constantly have to follow what their counterparts are devising in the developed world. "We have many times expressed our concern at the rate at which our effectiveness is being eroded by the creation of new instruments and conventions," the official remarked.

Commenting on the need for strengthening regional co-operation as a basis for combating illicit trade like drug trafficking, the official said, "If we do not co-operate regionally, we will not succeed in beating drug smugglers because they have anti-customs co-operation councils."

"Some of our nationals regard smuggling as a hobby, others a profession from which they derive their livelihood.

BOOST FOR DAIRY INDUSTRY

Blantyre DAILY TIMES in English 8 Sep 82 p 1

[Article: "222 Cattle Arrive From Canada"]

[Text] **MALAWI's dairy promotion programme received a big boost with the arrival yesterday of 222 Holstein cattle from Canada.**

The cattle delivery is part of the 500-cattle aid to Malawi which is costing the Canadian Government K9.15 million.

The first consignment of 240 cattle arrived here exactly a year ago and have since been fully accustomed to Malawi's climate, according to a spokesman of the department of veterinary services.

Under the Malawi-Canada Dairy Cattle Development Project, Canada will assist Malawi to establish two dairy farms — one at Chinsapo here in Lilongwe and the other at Ndata near Mikolongwe in Chiradzulu District.

The project aims at meeting the rising demand for milk especially the cities of Blantyre and Lilongwe.

It is planned that in

the long run, offsprings of the cattle will be sold to ordinary farmers in Malawi's rural areas.

Thus rural based smallholder farmers will be involved in Malawi's dairy promotion programmes towards inciting further milk demand in the rural areas.

The DC8 aircraft which airlifted the cattle from Canada could only carry 222 of the previously agreed 266 due to the big sizes of the six-month old animals.

The remaining 44 will come to Malawi later, the spokesman said.

The first consignment of 240 cattle which landed at the Kamuzu International Airport on September 6 last year have already been well established at Ndata less four of them which died.

The ones which arrived yesterday will be based at Chinsapo. —

FINANCE MINISTER INTERVIEWED

Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 30 Aug 82 p 6

[Interview with Paul Berenger, minister of Finance: "Economic Revival: Fact or Fiction? L'EXPRESS Asks Mr Paul Berenger"; date and place not specified]

[Text] [Question] Mr Finance Minister, we have noted that your proposed budget met with an appreciable favorable consensus, considering the situation you inherited. But there remain circumstantial reservations with respect to the second goal which you set for yourself in presenting the budget: economic revival. Although it is recognized that the investment incentives which you introduced are well-meant and well-directed, reservations are made because there are no funds available for economic revival: on the one hand, enterprises do not make profits and tax cuts are pointless; on the other hand, the share claimed by the government remains disproportionate. If these observations are well-founded, how can a revival take place, and how can it be a Mauritian revival?

[Answer] To begin with, let me first tell you that economic revival, which was the essential objective of the 1982/83 budget, is not a short term affair, it is not something that can be done quickly. At any rate, one thing is clear to us: it is that economic revival is necessary if the Mauritian Militant Movement [MMM], the Mauritian Socialist Party [PSM] and the Organization of the Rodriguez People [OPR] are, in the long run, to reconcile their basic socialist objectives with the immediate problems of our balance of payments, our budget deficit, our unemployment and economic stagnation in general.

The range of measures which I have introduced in the budget and which the government has since then adopted is aimed at avoiding the suicidal path of a poorly planned economic revival which would bring about a further deterioration of our balance of payments and deprive us of the means of creating productive jobs. I must say it again: our objectives--redistributing the national wealth, achieving a more real welfare state, creating productive jobs more rapidly--can be reached only if economic revival is achieved as soon as possible.

We are very much aware of the problems of enterprises, we are very much concerned by the necessity of having healthy enterprises. We want to provide existing enterprises with the means of achieving prosperity and create conditions favorable to the creation of new enterprises. However, it is my duty to

say that, while the country, under the leadership of an MMM/PSM/OPR government, has already begun an in-depth reorganization and adjustment effort, that should not go for the government alone. Enterprises too must accomplish a considerable effort of modernization, reorganization and adjustment. Too often, efforts which are necessary in terms of marketing, production research, diversification, quality control, and which are indispensable to bring prosperity to enterprises --too often these efforts have been postponed or have simply not been made. Therefore, we expect enterprises to make the same effort as we do at country and government level. This being said, we do intend to provide enterprises with the means to make profits. There is nothing taboo for us about doing that. We said it before the elections and we will say it again-- investments must yield a reasonable rate of return. Profit, in the acceptable meaning of the word, is necessary, its acceptable meaning being not synonymous with exploitation of the workers or unacceptable working conditions. There is a whole range of measures and concessions in my budget that are precisely aimed at helping enterprises make profits and prosper. Even so, enterprises must know how to take advantage of the concessions made and the opportunities offered to them. Enterprises must answer our call and respond to these incentives.

You also mention the exaggerated share which the government is claiming in terms of capital, liquid assets. The problem, I believe, is different. Too much capital is devoted to unproductive jobs and this is something we intend to change. Some were asking us to make drastic cuts in our 1982/83 development budget without telling the truth, which is that this would have resulted in massive layoffs. As a socialist government, we are not prepared to do that. Nevertheless, we have introduced, already in this first budget, a series of measures which are intended to provide the private sector with the means for its development and its financing and, immediately afterward, we have taken measures to obtain that every cent spent be spent in a productive way, i.e. that all jobs be productive jobs. As far as possible, we are going to control, if not reduce, government expenditures, especially operating expenditures, and we are not prepared to do so at the expense of wage earners nor at the expense of the state apparatus proper operation. In this first budget, we had very little room to maneuver, but we did all that could be done and, as months and years go by, we shall continue in this direction. It should be noted that the profitability of enterprises, just as the share of capital claimed by the government, is of particular interest to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and, therefore, we have discussed it with them. We are very much aware of this problem and have already begun to take action.

[Question] Another criticism contained in the analyses that accompanied the debate on your first budget involves the under-utilization of the existing industrial equipment. This would indicate that the inadequacy of our exportations is primarily a matter of market, not of investment. Now, no matter what it exports, Mauritius, considering its size, cannot represent a threat to any large market. Is the government inclined to take priority action in the fields of market and product intelligence and in bilateral negotiations with other governments to secure markets that would aspire to full-capacity production?

[Answer] The problem is not only a marketing problem; there are other problems, from the reluctance of Mauritian workers to work several shifts to the lack of

capital, the lack of bank credits, to name just a few, many other problems that slow down Mauritian enterprises. With respect to marketing, the 1982/83 budget already includes a number of measures aimed at a marketing effort abroad, with respect both to our free zone and our tourism, and there again we shall progress as months go by. In our opinion, the new marketing must not be restricted to the free zone and tourism, but must extend to such traditional sectors as sugar, tea, to name only a few. There again, we are actively studying these problems.

[Question] Economic revival is also a matter of climate. If we sift through parliamentary questions and take stock of the activities of certain ministries, we are afraid we will discover that the concerns of Parliament members and motivation authorities are not often such as would bring an economic revival. As Finance minister, are you satisfied with these trends?

[Answer] I will tell you no. At least not always, or not often. I do not have to tell you that most of our backbenchers are newcomers to Parliament. But there are many things that should be denounced, many past or continuing abuses that should be denounced. Nevertheless, the truth is that we do not want a negative climate to prevail in the government, a climate that would discourage those who are not to be blamed for anything but whose morale is affected by a certain form of harassment; that, we shall not tolerate. But, certainly, we shall not prevent abuses from being denounced and Parliament members from doing their work. This, you can guess, we have already discussed with Parliament members and shall continue to do so.

[Question] Now that you are familiar with all the demands of the situation, how can you, as the leading man in charge of the economy, support the project of an unproductive unemployment allowance which you used to advocate when you were a politician in the opposition?

[Answer] Rather than an unemployment allowance, we should call it a subsistence allowance. Mauritius cannot afford a "full full" (as we say on the island) unemployment allowance. Nevertheless, we believe that those who are truly needy and without means must be helped. With the help of foreign experts, Mr David Bradburry being one of them, the minister of Social Security, Employment and National Solidarity has prepared a Draft White Paper which is now being examined in depth by my officials and myself, my colleague, the minister of Economic Planning and Development, and his officials, my colleague, the minister of Social Security, and his officials. Upon my return, we shall put the finishing touch to this draft which will then be circulated and will contain definite proposals and figures and, therefore, will give rise to a national debate. In the light of the results of this debate, we shall proceed with a bill.

[Question] The government has taken certain courageous initiatives concerning the under-utilization of human potential in the public sector, to the satisfaction of those who believe that the reorientation of the labor force toward production and, as far as possible, toward exportation is the key to all structural reorganization. Can you, as Finance minister, tell us what you expect from this rehabilitation operation in the next five years?

[Answer] I would rather not comment on one of the measures we are not taking. There is a whole range of measures and there is the impact they will have on economic conditions in general. I believe that, if there are no cyclones, if there is no drought, if we are not especially affected by the world recession, if there is no new sudden increase in oil prices, then after three economic revival budgets we should begin to see the end of the tunnel. The task of economic recovery which myself and my colleagues have undertaken after the 11 June elections is not a short-range task. The damage caused to the Mauritian economy has left profound scars; you cannot straighten out a balance of payments in just a few months. Especially after it has been distorted as much as ours has been since 1976. As I said in closing the debate on the budget speech, we have taken a good start. Without false modesty, the budget we have introduced is certainly the best Mauritius could expect. We have taken a good start toward economic recovery. But it is a long-range task. Year after year, the successive economic revival budgets which we shall introduce will complete this long-range task; but, as I also said, we intend to publish a monthly table of the main economic indicators--employment sector by sector, inflation, balance of payments, balance of trade and other important indicators, budget deficit, etc. As I was saying, we shall present a monthly table so all the people--the unions first, but also all the people--can follow month by month the changes in the situation, so that, all together, we can take corrective measures in time should the results expected not materialize or be too long in coming.

There is no magic formula to get the country out of the disastrous economic situation in which the previous regime left it. All there is is stimulating production for exportation, production to replace importations, all there is is work and productivity, and all this can be obtained only in a climate of social justice, of regained dignity for the workers, with the participation of all and in a large outburst of patriotism which became evident after the 11 June elections and which will have to be the motivating force that, in the months and years to come, will enable Mauritius, following the good start it has now taken, to pull through.

9294

CSO: 4719/1392

LABOR PARTY SPLIT

Labor Party Members' Resignation

Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 29 Aug 82 pp 1, 7

[Article: "Erosion of Labor Party. Twelve Executive Committee Members, Including Sir Satcam Boolell, Resign Collectively"]

[Text] A dozen members of the Labor Party Executive Committee, with Sir Satcam Boolell at their head, resigned from the party last week and plan to hold a press conference during the next few days to state their position.

A joint resignation letter was addressed to the Labor Party secretariat on Wednesday. The resigning members feel they can no longer work in the Labor Party as it is now, and are considering the creation of a new political party.

In a statement to L'EXPRESS, yesterday afternoon, Mr Rajeshwar Purryag, who had lately been approached by the Labor Party leader, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, to succeed him, and who is one of the resigning members, gave to understand that those who decided to slam the door "had struggled for over five years to try and somewhat reorganize the Labor Party. They are now sick and tired. The very people who always resisted change are still talking as usual, in spite of last 11 June's defeat."

According to information obtained by L'EXPRESS, the resigning members now include Sir Satcam, Messrs Simadree Virahsawmy, K. Purryag, Iswardeo Seetaram, Kaleswarao Saccaram, Razack Peeroo, Dr K. Bussawon, all ministers in the former government, and former speaker Sir Ramesh Jeewoolall, Messrs Clarel Malherbes and Mooneshwar Hurry, former parliamentary secretaries, Krisnalall Coonjan, a former deputy, and Bala Teeroovengadam and Jack Kooraram.

For the second time in four years, the Labor Party sees itself dismembered. In 1978, it had to face dissent from a dozen members at first. Finally, things worked out for most of those who had taken issue with the leadership. However, the stir caused resulted in three deputies being expelled from the party, viz. Messrs Harish Boodhoo, Radha Gungoosingh and Dr Rohit Beedassy, who were to found the Mauritian Socialist party almost one year later.

Immediately after the 11 June elections, the party staff set up a committee to analyze the reasons for its stinging defeat. That committee was to meet last Wednesday to put the finishing touches to its report that will be presented next Sunday to the national congress which the Labor Party plans to hold at Eden College in Rose-Hill.

However, things were to take a turn for the worse during the week, when the above-mentioned resigned collectively.

Answering questions from L'EXPRESS yesterday, the Labor Party chairman confirmed the resignation of the Executive Committee members. He added, however, that the congress will be held as scheduled next Wednesday. "The party has a constitution which provides for the election of the chairman and of the executive committee. The congress will have to elect the majority group that will take over control of the party after 5 September. Any suggestion for change should have been submitted to the delegates at this congress, which is the highest party authority. I wish that the executive committee that will be elected by the congress should be representative of all the trends and all the districts and that it should rally around a leftist ideology so as to regain the inspiration which moved the Labor Party pioneers."

After Sir Satcam's resignation, there is only one candidate left to the position of Labor Party chairman, Mr Harry Boolauck.

SSR Comments on Resignation

Port Louis ADVANCE in French 30 Aug 82 pp 1, 4

[Article: "SSR [Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam] Deeply Regrets the Decision of Boolell and 11 Other Members to Resign From the Party Executive Committee"]

[Text] "This group decision may further decimate the Labor Party," he said.

Sir Satcam Boolell and 11 other members of the Labor Party Executive Committee have sent a joint resignation letter to the party secretariat and to the Executive Committee which met last Saturday afternoon and took note of it. Among the resigning members are former ministers Kailash Purryag, Iswardeo Seetaram, Razack Peeroo, Dr Bussawon, Messrs O. Saccaram, Simadree Virahsawmy, former speaker Sir Ramesh Jeewolall, Messrs Mooneswar Hurry, Clarel Malherbes, who all belonged to the dissenting group at the time when Mr Harish Boodho launched his movement, as well as Messrs K. Coonjan, Bala Teeroovengadum and Jacques Kooraram.

At its Saturday meeting, the Labor Party Executive Committee delegated Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Dr Regis Chaperon and Mr Guy Narainsamy to meet with the resigning members and attempt to make them come back on their decision.

Sir Seewoosagur, whom we met at his home yesterday afternoon, made the following statement: "I am deeply saddened to see that colleagues with whom I have always worked have made such a decision, especially after the considerable defeat we suffered in the last general elections. I had thought that, considering the last elections, it would be important for the Labor Party to close ranks, become united again and work loyally toward the advent of a moderate form of socialism, so each Mauritian could receive his share and everyone could work without the slightest fear."

"At yesterday's (Saturday) Executive Committee meeting, we read the letter of resignation from the 12 members. It should be noted that several of those who are now resigning belonged to the 'group of 13' in 1977, when Mr Harish Boodhoo was leading the dissenters together with his friends, Mr Radha Gungoosingh and Dr Rohit Beedassy who formed the PSM [Mauritian Socialist Party]."

"We have never had so many difficulties to face in the Labor Party, and the decision made by the new group may further decimate the party."

Sir Seewoosagur announced that, immediately after Saturday's Executive Committee meeting, he tried to contact Sir Satcam Boolell, but was unfortunately unable to do so, Sir Satcam having left for the seashore at Trou-d'Eau-Douce. However, he was able to contact Mr Kailash Purryag who is going to meet with him this afternoon. Sir Seewoosagur told us he hoped that the outcome of this meeting would be positive for the future of the party and the country. He added that the country expects more from the Labor Party than petty quarrels, since the party still has a part to play in the development and progress of the country and all its sons.

9294

CSO: 4719/1388

FRENCH COOPERATION MINISTER VISITS, IS INTERVIEWED

Mr Cot's Press Conference

Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 1 Sep 82 pp 1, 6, 7

[Press Conference by French minister of cooperation, Mr Jean-Pierre Cot, prior to his departure from Plaisance airport, on 31 August 1982]

[Text] "We shall not ask the impossible from a friend."

These were the words of the French minister of cooperation and Development, Mr Jean-Pierre Cot, in answer to questions from the French and Mauritian press, yesterday afternoon at the Plaisance airport, prior to his departure from the island.

Mr Cot stated that, although the Mauritian government's requests are realistic, Mauritius's needs are enormous. He added that France will not be able to grant all these requests. He stated that, in a first stage, cooperation projects must be planned before they are submitted to the joint French-Mauritian commission which is scheduled to meet early next year. "Nevertheless, France has a moral commitment."

Mr Cot was accompanied at the Plaisance airport by the minister of agriculture, Mr Kishore Deerpalsingh, and the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Jean-Claude de l'Estrac. Among other topics, Mr Cot touched on regional cooperation, the demilitarization of the Indian Ocean, Tromelin, and French aid to Mauritius.

Here are Mr Cot's main answers to questions asked by the Mauritian and French journalists who were at the Plaisance airport yesterday afternoon.

[Question] For the first time, French cooperation is contemplating a regional cooperation project that would include a French territory and sovereign states. Do you think that this will require the creation of new structures in your ministry? Do you also contemplate creating a new regional cooperation agency?

[Answer] We are deeply interested in participating in regional cooperation as long as our partners agree. We believe that sovereign states working together could achieve a lot in this respect. France, too, is a sovereign state. We wish to take part in such cooperation on an equal footing. As soon as the Mauritian initiative is approved by the other states in this region, we shall be able to set up concrete cooperation projects. We shall support this effort and participate to all possible extent. We shall act through the European Community. Economic conditions are favorable to the setting up of such regional cooperation.

[Question] Would such cooperation take place directly from France to Mauritius or else through Reunion?

[Answer] I have always encouraged all forms of cooperation, not only cooperation between states, but also through non-governmental organizations or through the French cooperative movement. I believe that all potential participants must be encouraged. In Reunion, there are organizations that are interested. The Reunion Chamber of Commerce and Industry has submitted proposals to this effect. The Reunion Regional Development Institute, for its part, is contemplating the organization of a symposium on regional cooperation next year.

[Question] Does France contemplate the possibility of having Reunion seated next to independent countries in such an Indian Ocean Islands Commission?

[Answer] First, that is for the local states to decide. France which, through Reunion, is a local state, will be happy to join it. However, we are not the prime mover in this case. It was initiated by the Mauritian government. We shall accept any invitation made to us.

[Question] France has been the advocate of the Malagasy Republic with the International Monetary Fund. Is it willing to help Mauritius in the same manner and with other organizations?

[Answer] The word "advocate" may not be appropriate as it would imply that there was a defendant. Now, I do not consider Mauritius to be a defendant. Our economic and financial cooperation already exists and should be intensified. With respect to our relations with international financial institutions, we are willing to plead the Mauritian case. However, there are excellent advocates in Mauritius.

[Question] Can France play a part in such regional cooperation unless there is a political desire to do so on the part of Reunion, which is anchored to the right?

[Answer] You cannot say that Reunion is anchored to the right. We must let Reunion vote. Elections to the departmental and regional councils will soon take place. It is interesting to note that personalities from the economic sector are motivated to such cooperation. We must avail ourselves of this historical occasion to set up regional cooperation.

[Question] What you call cooperation, others call French imperialism. What are your comments?

[Answer] It seems to me that French imperialism is somewhat limited in its ambitions. True, we would like to see ideas that are dear to us become more widespread. The French imperialism which we want to disseminate is that of 1789.

[Question] In a recent statement, you mentioned exploiting and sharing the wealth of scattered islands. What did you mean, especially with respect to Tromelin?

[Answer] France is ready and willing to discuss with its partners, and especially with its Mauritian partners, any problem that may arise, and especially the territorial status of Tromelin. Nevertheless, in addition to their non-negligible historical and symbolic value, these islands scattered in the Indian Ocean are also a source of present and potential wealth, or again a source of safety, for instance for the meteorological prediction of cyclones. In this respect, much could be done concretely for oceanographic research, meteorological stations and, tomorrow, nodule mining. For such operations, France can contribute its experience, its technological potential and its capabilities which it intends to make available to this region as a whole. We can thus help one another rather than waste our time in sterile discussions.

[Question] What is the French government's position with respect to the Indian Ocean Islands Games?

[Answer] We would like the Mauritian government to take charge of the organization of these games. We confirmed the French offer to install an Olympic swimming pool and to help in the concrete organization of the Games. At a time when economic conditions are difficult, all factors should be considered if the Mauritian government is not to launch itself into a prestige operation, even for the sake of organizing the Indian Ocean Games. We offered to delegate a high French official experienced in this field to see what is actually possible.

[Question] Did you discuss a possible visit of President Mitterrand to Mauritius on the occasion of his forthcoming trip to India?

[Answer] The Mauritian government would like to receive the French president, just as the French government would like to welcome Mr Jugnauth, your prime minister, in Paris. I am also pleased with your decision to consider India and France as privileged partners. On certain projects, the three of us could obtain interesting results. India, like France, has some experience, especially in oceanography.

[Question] You recently stated that, in view of conditions in the Indian Ocean, generosity was a political tool that France had to use. Would you comment on this statement?

[Answer] It seems to me that France's obvious interest is that the Indian Ocean should be a zone of peace, a zone of development. It is also essential

for France to be on neighborly terms with countries in this area. These are reasons why we are directly concerned and also why our self-interest inclines us to generosity. We act out of political interest as well as out of socialist solidarity and, basically, this is good.

[Question] We know now that the Reunion market is not particularly open to Mauritian products. What guarantees can you offer to show that you are serious about a possible cooperation between the two islands?

[Answer] Regional cooperation will not be easy to implement. The economic crisis is causing problems which strongly affect the French textile industry as well as the Mauritian textile industry. We also have our own employment problems. We ask you to understand them. There are also technical and legal problems. I am thinking of the incompatibility with the Lome convention, and of a system in which there could be a regional common market that would allow free circulation of products in both directions. Nevertheless, I think that we can find solutions, if it is our policy to do so. We must negotiate and, I grant you that, Mauritians are hard-bargaining negotiators.

[Question] Have you started negotiations concerning the Mauritians who are in France without legal papers?

[Answer] A number of Mauritian workers are doing good work in France. We want them to stay. However, illegal Mauritian immigrants form one of the largest groups of immigrants in France. In the recent past, French policy has not always been sound. We must straighten out things. Therefore, in accordance with the French government's policy, we shall do all that is necessary to enable Mauritian workers now in France to work under satisfactory conditions. However, we cannot take the responsibility of welcoming new workers as long as we have no jobs to offer them. We certainly do not do this with a light heart. But that would be irresponsible.

[Question] France maintains a military presence in the Indian Ocean, while local countries are calling for a demilitarization of this zone. Is that not paradoxical?

[Answer] Our presence is relatively modest compared to others. At times, one local government or the other may have found it useful during recent events. Our presence has no imperialistic ambition. We wish to see the Indian Ocean demilitarized. For that, the sources of tension in the region must first be eliminated.

In closing his press conference, the French minister of Cooperation and Development again assured the Mauritian government of France's socialist solidarity. He added: "These are not empty words."

Soon afterwards, Mr Jean-Pierre Cot and the delegation that accompanied him to Mauritius left the island. On his departure, he was greeted by the minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Jean-Claude de l'Estrac, and the minister of Agriculture, Mr Kishore Deerpalsingh.

Interview with Mr Cot

Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 1 Sep 82 pp 5

[Interview with Mr Jean-Pierre Cot, French minister of cooperation, by Alain Gordon-Gentil of LE MAURICIEN, on 31 August 82]

[Text] "Relations between our two countries have been given a new start." This is what Mr Jean-Pierre Cot said yesterday morning, during an exclusive interview with Alain Gordon-Gentil of LE MAURICIEN. Briefly reviewing bilateral relations between Mauritius and France, the minister of cooperation ventured to go beyond the usual half-hearted diplomatic statements.

Mr Jean-Pierre Cot consistently insisted that the advent of a socialist government in Mauritius "gave rise to a desire to see our two countries work toward a common destiny."

[Question] Mr Minister, can we say that your visit has brought new inspiration to relations between Mauritius and France?

[Answer] I cannot tell whether relations between our two countries have changed, but I know that we have been able to reassert and intensify them both culturally and politically. This will make for a more efficient interpenetration between Mauritius and France. It will also enable us to increase our presence in Mauritius and will give your country an opportunity to bring to us the extraordinary cultural heritage that is yours.

[Question] Has the advent of a socialist government brought about concrete changes in the relations between our two countries?

[Answer] What is sure, is that the advent of a young socialist team in Mauritius, whose views are close to those we want to implement in France, has made us comrades-in-arms and created a desire to work jointly toward our destiny, which has enriched the relations between our two countries.

[Question] Your speeches gave the impression that you had come to Mauritius much more as a militant socialist deputy than as a minister of cooperation...

[Answer] You know that France does have militant ministers... There is no law against it, is there?... You can be minister and still remain a politician.

[Question] Would you comment on the dossiers which the Mauritian government submitted to you? Are they realistic?

[Answer] Yes, they are both realistic and ambitious. And we also were able to note that French assistance to Mauritius is not wasted or squandered, which does not mean that there are no problems. There are huge needs for development and the Mauritian government does all it can to make sure that development takes place under conditions that involve both rigor and confidence. We wish to help it with all our strength, a strength which we shall place at the disposal of our

Mauritian friends. Apart from that, I was impressed by the quality of the dossiers that were submitted to us and also by the projects that have been realized. The Tamarin Fishing Cooperative is a fine realization of the co-operative movement.

[Question] Is it reasonable for Mauritius to consider itself privileged among Third-World countries in its relations to France?

[Answer] Socialists do not like the word "privileges"... But it is true that our relations have been given a new start. This is due to the almost simultaneous advent of two socialist governments in our two countries. That can only strengthen our relations.

[Question] One last personal question: If I asked you to describe Mauritius in a few words, what would you say?

[Answer] This country is too rich to be described in a few words. No, really, I am at a loss to answer that last question...

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CSO: 4719/1387

BRIEFS

ELECTION LOSS EXAMINED--The Chaperon committee submits its report to Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam: The committee appointed by the Labor Party Executive Committee to examine the causes of the party's defeat in the general elections of 11 June 1982 has completed its work and submitted its report to the party leader, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam. The Labor Party Congress which will meet next Sunday will not have an opportunity to discuss this report; the report will be examined by the Executive Committee to be appointed by the congress on Sunday. Our readers will remember that, after the December 1976 elections, a similar report had been prepared by a committee which was then chaired by Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo. According to Dr Chaperon, the Labor Party was defeated in the 1982 election because it failed to study the causes put forward in Sir Veerasamy's report. Dr Chaperon hopes that this time the party will draw a better lesson from the observations contained in his report... [Text] [Port Louis ADVANCE in French 30 Aug 82 pp 1,4] 9294

CSO: 4719/1388

INTRUSION OF RELIGIOUS PRINCIPLES IN BUSINESS FORBIDDEN

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 14 Aug 82 p 2

[Article by E.R.]

[Text] The integration of units of the hotel and similar industries in GOAM [Maputo Supply Organization Office] is opening good prospects for better operation of that sector, since it is known that the CIT [Information and Tourist Center], the organization previously responsible, was struggling with immense difficulties, particularly with regard to control and supervision. This is not to speak of the problem of supply for which, incidentally, the CIT could not come up with an answer.

It can be said that the incorporation of the hotel industry in GOAM got off to a good start through a decision justified from all aspects.

We are speaking of the prohibition, pure and simple, of the use of religious reasons to deprive the customer of certain products.

To be precise, the proprietors of establishments of the hotel industry, who profess the Muslim religion, were forbidding the frequenters of their places of business to eat pork and its byproducts. In restaurants, snack bars and the like, customers were not permitted to eat fibrous meats, pork chops and similar foods, and, in pastry shops, coffee houses and tearooms, they were forbidden to eat sandwiches containing pork sausage, other sausage or certain beef products.

Furthermore, the owners of establishments, who profess the Hindu religion, deprived their customers of all types of food made with beef.

In other words, some hotel industry establishments were virtually converted into churches. This has ended and will remain so.

In the People's Republic of Mozambique, the practice of religion is unrestricted. Everyone knows this, but in one's own home, not in public places frequented by large numbers of people who, in many instances, have nothing to do with any type of religion.

Thus, GOAM's decision must be welcomed as a breath of fresh and invigorating air in the hotel and allied industry. In any and every establishment, the customer has the right to order what he wants and not what the owner or manager wants him to have. These are public domains and, as such, can never be used, even on a small scale, as vehicles for religious propaganda.

DISSATISFACTION AROUSED BY GDR FOOTWEAR SALE PRICE

Maputo TEMPO in Portuguese 22 Aug 82 p 2

[Article by: Hilario Matusse]

[Text] A series of meetings are being held in Maputo to encourage the people to discuss their problems and consider possible solutions.

The party leadership, which is promoting and guiding these meetings, is attempting to help the people raise their level of political awareness and, especially, overcome their reluctance to speak out on the problems plaguing them, study the causes and seek solutions.

The matter of footwear offered to our country by the GDR and sold at 1,600 meticals when the price should not exceed 1,200 meticals has shown the confidence the people have in their party. They spoke up and called attention to that problem, and therein lies the solution.

There may still be some who see a good reason to sell that footwear at the previous price--I believe this is so--since the situation has dragged on for a long time, even after the question was raised in one of the meetings with party leaders in which it was decided to seek an urgent solution. Contrary to what was expected, the situation has continued, and rumors have run rampant throughout the city just as much as there was silence by the one whose mission it was to resolve the problem. Meanwhile, there was another meeting, and the people got up once more and called attention to the problem. Therein lies the answer.

When someone speaks of footwear, he speaks of many other problems to which answers are possible if, in fact, the persons directly responsible assume their role and do their duty. Unfortunately, many times only the intervention of highly placed leaders can put a stop to these abnormal situations.

There is no doubt that the people are capable of understanding the situation, and the proof of this is the frank attitude with which they are analyzing and expounding upon the problems at the meetings, which have become true political schools.

8568

CSO: 4742/382

HIGH CUSTOMS DUTIES ON GDR GIFT CLOTHING PROTESTED

Maputo TEMPO in Portuguese 22 Aug 82 p 48

[Article by Celestino Jacinto Bendane, working student in the GDR]

[Text] I am pleased to write to report on questions relating to items sent from the GDR to Mozambique. We have learned, in this country, of the following problem: "The clothing we are sending to Mozambique to help our parents is creating problems in the mails. When our parents are advised to come to the post office to pick up the item sent, they are required to pay much money, even more than the purchase price of the material!"

And I am asking: "Can it be that our mail services are now becoming stores which are selling clothing from the GDR? They have found yet another way to exploit the people. Formerly, shipments disappeared; and, as has been said, they have now discovered another technique. To what extent will this go on, and what is the objective?"

"Can it be that they still do not know that nearly all of us in the GDR are students who, moreover, are not buying clothing because we have much money but, rather, because we know our families need our help and are doing so at great effort. Thus far, the scholarship money has not proved sufficient for all our needs; and when we saw that the clothing we sent is costing much money to get out of customs, we felt sad. In addition, we paid the money here because we also were not sending the material gratis, and we did not buy it very cheap.

This has happened to me three times: once, I sent 3.25 kg which cost me 1,290 meticals; the second time, I sent 3 kg which cost me 800 meticals; and the last time, I sent 5 kg which cost me 2,000 meticals. This is a lot of money.

The other question is this: We have friends who send us the magazine TEMPO. The cost to send this time is 100 to 120 meticals. My question is: How many grams does a magazine weigh and what is the cost per gram?

8568

CSO: 4742/382

MOZAMBIQUE

DETAILS PROVIDED ON DESTRUCTION OF NRM CAMPS

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 19 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] Between 1 and 17 August, the Mozambican Armed Forces (FPLM [Popular Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique]) destroyed seven camps occupied by armed bandits in the provinces of Gaza, Inhambane, Manica and Sofala, according to information released by AIM [MOZAMBIQUE NEWS AGENCY].

A Mozambican military source told AIM that dozens of bandits were killed in the fighting and that considerable war material was seized.

On 9 August, the armed forces attacked and assaulted a camp of armed bandits in the Bala-Bala area, killing two bandits and confiscating various pieces of war material. The next day, another camp was destroyed in the Nalazi area. On 11 August, the armed forces attacked a group of bandits in the Chefu area, capturing one. Three days later, in the Sumbulane area, Mozambican soldiers killed 15 more bandits and wounded others.

On the same day, after a pursuit, another camp was destroyed in the Mocoduene area in Inhambane Province.

On 9 August, Mozambican forces, stationed in Manica Province, attacked two camps, one of them of the type the armed bandits call a command post. On this occasion, three bandits were captured and seven killed. The armed forces also seized a duffel bag, four packages and two boxes of ammunition, one cartridge clip and 19 hand grenades.

In this action, 59 peasants were freed who had been kidnapped by the armed gangs. On 16 August, in new fighting, three more bandits were killed and one weapon was seized. On the same day, the armed forces killed another bandit near the small community of Guilaze.

In Sofala, in the Mafambisse area, the armed forces killed an unspecified number of bandits and captured four, one of whom was carrying a weapon. A week later, in the Tica area, another bandit was captured. On 10 August, in the Rego area north of Nhamatanda, the armed forces destroyed a camp and captured seven bandits. Six days later, another camp was destroyed in the Chissanjo area north of the bridge over the Pungoe River.

8568

CSO: 4742/381

TROUBLED 'CAPITALIST-ORIENTED' PESCOM REORGANIZATION PLANNED

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 23 Aug 82 p 1

[Excerpts] "PESCOM [Commercial Fishing Company] got off to a bad start. We established this company as a state enterprise, but the concepts which subsequently governed this effort were capitalist in nature. Only thus can we explain the errors discovered in this regard," Aranda da Silva, minister of Home Trade [MCI], speaking at a workers' general assembly in which he announced the appointment of Julio de Sousa Kazembe as director of that enterprise.

Yesterday's meeting was preceded by a series of sectorial meetings held to analyze PESCOM's performance, a measure which was part of a more general program arranged by the MCI to strengthen the management leadership of its state firms and also organize those firms more efficiently.

"Although the work of the committee which has been working with you here for 3 weeks has not yet terminated," Aranda da Silva said, "the seriousness of the problems we are facing has made us see that it was urgently necessary to take specific measures, one of which, in this case, was the appointment of a director."

Without citing actual cases or mentioning names, since that could prejudice the investigations already underway, Aranda da Silva invited the workers to speak about the serious problems of the diverting of fish and shrimp, thefts, the falsification of documents, and others.

Although the participation of the workers has not been active, at this meeting those who spoke were very clear about the chaotic situation now being experienced by PESCOM. The passive approach evidenced in the silence and, in some instances, speeches made by some of the workers called upon by the discussion leader to voice their opinion gave reason to believe that a certain degree of compromise could be expected, and with good reason.

The total absence of any definite work policy, which was also considered to be at the root of some of the irregularities here detected and as expressed by one of the workers who spoke, was substantiated by the fact that there had never been a meeting of the workers in the firm--either partisan or any other kind--from the time the party was organized within the company.

Later in the meeting, the MCI head said to the workers: "Are there not racist problems here? The cooperants are protected, and office workers are treated in a special manner. An office worker can go directly to the company manager to present his problem and complain as many times as necessary until a solution is obtained; a worker in another sector cannot. When he goes to the manager, he is told: 'You have a supervisor; tell him your problem.' This is what really happens within the company."

To emphasize the fact that PESCOM's serious situation is the result of bad management to which it has been subjected since its founding, Aranda da Silva recalled the succession of directorates who were hired to run the firm since its beginning with the aim of correcting the damage being done. Just a little more than 5 years after its founding, PESCOM now has its fifth director.

Minister Aranda da Silva gave his assurance that the committee, which has been working at PESCOM since June, will continue to analyze the firm's performance, after which measures are to be taken to reorganize the company in accordance with the committee's findings.

With the appointment of Julio de Sousa Kazembe, who is also national director of commercial techniques at the MCI, the services of Maria Joane Oliveira, who was previously responsible for the company, are terminated.

8568

CSO: 4742/381

MOZAMBIQUE

BRIEFS

GDR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM--Yesterday, Bodo Weidemann, GDR secretary of state for professional training, and his committee visited the professional training center of the CFM-Sul [Mozambican Railroad-Southern Branch], in Maputo, having leisurely inspected the facilities after a brief meeting with Luis Pais, director of the center, who presented an overall picture of the operation of the complex. After observing the operation and other aspects of the center's activities, GDR's secretary of state for professional training praised the program and action to be taken during the coming year to provide professional training for medium-skilled personnel in the railway sector. [Excerpts] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 18 Aug 82 p 2] 8568

PORTUGUESE HOTEL CONSTRUCTION, ADMINISTRATION--"Mozambique and Portugal have scheduled for the end of this year the resumption of work on the construction of the Four Seasons Hotel in Maputo and the temporary transfer of the managerial staff from the Polana Hotel, also in the capital, to a Portuguese firm," Mario Trindade, director of the Information and Tourist Center [CIT], told NOTICIAS. The agreement on the Polana administrative staff was signed yesterday and will become effective on 1 January 1983. The resumption of work, interrupted 7 years ago, is the result of negotiations recently conducted between delegations of the business sectors of Mozambique and Portugal, during which the two parties agreed upon the necessary mechanisms to finalize that important project. The volume of work to be performed by a Mozambique firm with Portuguese technical assistance is estimated at \$10 million (about 370 million meticals), and formalities are presently underway to open the pertinent credit. This amount covers the total investment of the project relating to the utilization and completion of the controversial Four Seasons Hotel, but that figure could be lower if it is possible to obtain certain equipment locally, particularly that involved in altering and equipping the 26-story building. While waiting for the hotel to be completed, estimated at 3 years, the Portuguese contingent, with a minimum investment, will be responsible for the administration of the Polana Hotel. "According to the arrangements made by Mozambique and Portugal, this action is aimed at improving the services of the Polana Hotel in keeping with its classification," said the CIT director. He also said that the negotiations underway to provide the Polana's administrative staff with Portuguese personnel will be extended to include the training of Mozambican personnel to operate the Four Seasons Hotel. [Text] [Maputo NOTICIA in Portuguese 13 Aug 82 p 10] 8568

DEVELOPMENT OF PRC TRADE--The People's Republic of China will begin to purchase cotton from our country, and the possibility of exporting cashew nuts is also being studied. This information was released by Salomao Munguambe, minister of foreign trade, who returned Monday from that Asian country. The export of Mozambican cotton and other products to China is in keeping with a trade agreement recently signed between the two countries. According to this agreement, Mozambique will send China various agricultural implements, among which are scythes, machetes, hoes and articles of personal adornment, such as rings, necklaces, and earrings. To facilitate the commercial exchanges, which will now begin to increase, meetings have already been held between the banking organizations of the two countries. [Text] [Maputo TEMPO in Portuguese 22 Aug 82 p 3] 8568

ARMED FORCES KILL 'BANDITS'--The Mozambique armed forces killed (?20) yesterday who were trying to escape with commodities stolen from shops in Cumbane in Inhambane Province. Our forces captured a large quantity of South African-made automatic light weapons, two bazookas, an antitank mine and other war materials. All commodities stolen from two foodstores in Cumbane were recovered as was property belonging to other people. The recovered goods include rice, flour, bread, a radio and a large quantity of clothes and sheets. [Text] [EA172200 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 17 Sep 82]

BEIRA NEWSMAN DISMISSED--For serious political and administrative irregularities and for having embezzled the company's funds, Carlos Manuel Cardoso, who until now was managing director of NOTICIAS in Beira, was relieved of his duties. This decision was announced Wednesday to the workers of that delegation at the conclusion of a week-long investigation made by a special group at the NOTICIAS headquarters in the provincial capital of Sofala. Journalist Manuel Tome is temporarily supervising the operation of the NOTICIAS branch in Beira. The matter of the embezzled funds was turned over to the proper authorities. [Text] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 13 Aug 82 p 3] 8568

CSO: 4742/381

ROLE OF NYS IN AGRICULTURAL PLAN DETAILED

Victoria NATION in English 8 Sep 82 pp 1, 2

[Text] **THE National Youth Service, through its unique approach to education, is seen by the new Agriculture Plan as a major recruitment centre of trained manpower for the Agricultural Revolution.**

The Plan, being studied by Seychelles' farming community and entitled "An Agricultural Strategy for Food Security", says that the NYS, through combining classroom teaching and practical involvement in production through co-operatives and community work, has a very important role to play in developing and revitalizing agriculture in Seychelles.

Two major principles are involved here, the Plan says. The first is the need to set up a vigorous and sustained rate of growth in the agricultural sector directed towards the country's food needs and export earnings.

EVOLUTION

The second, and here the NYS comes in, is the need to encourage the evolution of

new relations of production and distribution in the context of Seychellois socialism.

Producer co-operatives are being set up in the NYS. These will play a key role in the evolution of socialist production models and the education of NYS students, as well as providing for much of the food needs of the Service.

The NYS, says the Plan, will encourage a respect for locally-produced food through growing its own in gardens and co-operatives and through discussion of the nutritive value and economic importance of local crops.

By exposing its students to agriculture firsthand, the NYS is expected to identify those with the ability and inclination to continue farming after their studies.

TRAINING

Some of these farmers-to-be will go on to further education in the Polytechnic and advanced training in special fields. Others will begin to work in the agricultural sector, as members of a co-ope-

rative on large parastatal or private farms or on small-holder farms.

After an appropriate time spent on on-the-job training, such people, the Plan points out, will be eligible to take part in agricultural development schemes.

Final details of the curriculum for the Polytechnic have not yet been worked out, but the emphasis will be on modern methods of production.

POTENTIAL

Recognising the vast reservoir of potential agriculturalists in the NYS, the Plan refers to several efforts to provide security for the students' future.

The Ministry of Agriculture will in future give more support to the NYS through technical advice in farming and animal husbandry and in developing the NYS agricultural curriculum.

Meanwhile, the Plan has called on Seychelles People's Progressive Front branches and community groups to involve NYS students in agricultural development in the districts.

But the Plan, however, does not explain how best to go about this.

LAND

Another incentive to budding farmers from the NYS will be an assurance that they will be able to get the much-sought-after land to farm on.

Owners who are not productively using their land, the Plan warns, will be asked to submit a development programme to the Ministry for approval. If they do not do this or if they do not carry out their plans, the Government will acquire the land to be sold to dedicated farmers or used as state farms.

Preference in sharing out new land will be given to people who can farm efficiently and to people who have gone through agricultural training in the NYS and the Polytechnic and who have gained practical experience.

MINISTER CALLS FOR CONCERTED EFFORT IN AGRICULTURE

Victoria NATION in English 7 Sep 82 pp 1, 2

[Text]

EVEN the most detailed strategy is useless without the co-operation of those who implement it, Agriculture Minister Matthew Servina said in calling for a concerted effort to achieve the objectives of the new National Agriculture Plan.

The Plan, recently approved by the Council of Ministers, was the first clear strategy ever prepared in Seychelles on how the country's agricultural development should be carried out, Mr. Servina said.

The Minister told Radio Seychelles: "It is crucial for everyone involved, from the planters to the administrators, to realise that an agricultural development strategy alone is worth nothing and that neither the Government nor the farmers make it work on their own."

"So the first thing we must do is work very closely together and understand each other in a way that will en-

sure that we are always helping each other."

This was why, the Minister pointed out, the Agricultural Plan laid so much emphasis on the development of producers' co-operatives.

Mr. Servina said the strategy, "based on reality and past local experience," would need a re-orientation of public education on socialist lines for producers and consumers to understand each other's needs and problems.

"If the consumers do not understand the producers' problems we will not be able to help and encourage them properly."

Looking at the Plan's objectives, Minister Servina pointed out that in the past a lot of effort had been made without a really clear direction and without fully realising how much the country depended on foreign sources for food.

Now, one of the overriding objectives was to replace

such sources with local food. This would mean becoming more independent, producing more food, creating more jobs, saving more foreign exchange, and raising the living standards of the people even more.

So, while it was impossible, too difficult or too costly to produce many agricultural products in Seychelles, "we must make an effort to produce as much local food as possible, substituting that which we cannot produce."

Admitting that some imported products were cheaper and of better quality than local produce, the Agriculture Minister said that local

farmers had to be encouraged not only to produce more but also to diversify more to reduce the alternating periods of glut and scarcity of certain crops that now existed.

As for prices, the Minister said that while farmers had to be given good prices to encourage them, consumers too had to be given fair prices to encourage them to buy more and to make sure that they would afford to feed their families properly

CSO: 4700/1949

NEW COUNCIL WILL PROMOTE SPORTS

Victoria NATION in English 10 Sep 82 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] **SPORTSMEN throughout the Republic have welcomed the appointment this week of a 23 — member National Sports Council to co-ordinate and promote all sporting activity in Seychelles.**

Headed by Mr. John Mascarenhas as Chairman, the Council includes Senior Sports Officers for land and sea, and representatives of the five regions, athletics, basketball, boxing, dominoes, football, hockey, volleyball, minor sports without federations, and National Sports Officials. The names are all printed in this week's Official Gazette.

The minister responsible for sports and the Council will meet at least every six months with 10 members forming a quorum.

An Executive Committee of six Officials has also been appointed from among the Council members to manage funds and carry out any duties given to it by the N.S.C.

The Executive Committee will meet at least every three months with a five-men quorum.

The N.S.C. is to encourage, in co-operation with the sports federations, the attainment of high standards; to make sure that Government policies are followed; to approve calendars and programmes proposed by sports federations; to encourage and support individuals and teams representing Seychelles in sports

events overseas; to develop relations with international organisations likely to grant financial, material or technical help for the development of Seychellois sports; and co-operate with international bodies and institutes specialising in sports research physical education, medicine or sports journalism.

The Council will also provide advisory and information services, provide help and grants to people promoting or developing sports in Seychelles, run sports shops, and set up committees to advise or assist the N.S.C.

The N.S.C. has extensive powers to raise funds provided that the money is used for the expenses of sports federations, national teams travelling overseas and of the Council itself. Apart from the sports shop and any similar commercial activities, the Council will be free of taxation.

CSO: 4700/1949

SOUTH AFRICA

BISHOP TUTU SPEAKS ON RETURN FROM U.S.

MB221457 Johannesburg SOWETAN in English 20 Sep 82 p 1

[Text] South Africa would have a bloodless revolution if the Afrikaans churches decided to be true to their calling--to become the voice of the voiceless, General Secretary of the SACC [South African Council of Churches] Bishop Desmond Tutu said in Johannesburg at the weekend.

Speaking at an impromptu press conference held at Jan Smuts Airport after arriving from the United States on Friday night, Bishop Tutu told journalists that he was as happy to be back home as he had been to be away from the phobia of South Africa's oppression.

Bishop Tutu told a crowd consisting mostly of whites that the South African Government would have to negotiate with people such as Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo to solve the country's problems.

He said that he had told Americans that the harassment of trade unions, among other things, was helping to deteriorate the situation in the country.

He said he criticised the Reagan administration's inconsistency for the high-profile concern it showed over the Polish Government's action against the workers' union, solidarity, while adopting a different attitude over a similar situation in South Africa.

Commenting on Dr Allan Boesak's recent election as president of the world's second largest church body, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, Bishop Tutu said Dr Boesak was not only a spiritual leader of 70 million people but also of the Ng Kerk [Dutch Reformed Church], "in which he is not allowed to worship in this country."

CSO: 4700/1955

NEED FOR 'INFLUX CONTROL' BILL QUESTIONED

MB231002 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 22 Sep 82 p 28

[Editorial: "Is the 'New Deal' Being Sabotaged?"]

[Text] Some very strange behind-the-scenes process is bedevelling the passage of laws which are supposed to make life easier for urban blacks. It is two years since Dr Piet Koornhof announced a "new deal" which would eliminate much of the red tape, frustration and misery caused by "the hated Dompas [pass book]." He then produced a package of three bills which turned out, on closer examination, to be very much like the old deal--and in some respects worse. After an outcry the minister withdrew them all for redrafting. The local authorities bill had to go back yet again before it returned before parliament recently, much altered, in a form which the opposition could support.

Now the focus falls upon a law dealing directly with influx control, the orderly movement and settlement of black persons bill. It has certain redeeming features, but its major effect is to tighten the screws ferociously on "unauthorised" blacks in the cities. It would make it illegal for them to be in an urban area between 10 pm and 5 am; impose a fine of R500 (or six months) on anyone accommodating such a person even for a night, and a fine of R5,000 (or 12 months) on anyone illegally employing him or her.

It its sweeping restrictions of movement and disruption of family life, the effects have been compared to the mass population removals of Stalinist Russia. It will strip urban rights from some categories of children actually born in the cities, and long-resident contract workers who might have qualified for such rights. Community bodies and trade unions warn that the measure could lead to "widespread confrontation and unrest." The Catholic and Anglican churches find the draft bill so distasteful that Christian conscience, they warn, may have to disobey it should it become law.

Shortly the bill will come before a parliamentary select committee which may agree, as it did with one of the companion bills, to remove some of the worst features. But the point is: Why are those features there at all? Why create all this uproar, mistrust and opprobrium? If the government drafters are deliberately creating legal cardboard monsters in order to create

diversions for less evil legislation, then they should know that they are damaging the country and fooling no one.

However, there are more sinister indications. The impression grows strongly that those who draft Dr Koornhof's "new deal" bills are deliberately out to frustrate his declared intentions and sabotage his credibility. If there are such culprits, they should be brought to book for ripping apart the delicate fabric of South Africa's race relations.

CSO: 4700/1955

SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE DENY PURCHASE OF U.S. CONTROL DEVICE

MB221508 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 22 Sep 82 p 7

[Text] Cape Town--A senior Pretoria police spokesman yesterday denied any police involvement in the purchase of 2,500 shock devices from the United States for use in crowd control.

The shock devices which are the same size as the long baton used by U.S. police--known as night sticks--were yesterday reportedly on their way to South Africa amid a furore about an alleged breach of U.S. law.

Col Chris Coetzee of the police directorate of public relations said, however: "This is news to the SAP [South African Police]."

According to a report yesterday, U.S. officials said the shock devices had been sold to the police by mistake.

The devices, which are described as similar to cattle prods and which give a person a jolt when they are touched, appear to be similar to shock sticks which have been available on the South African market for several years.

The sticks marketed in South Africa were disguised as umbrellas.

According to the report yesterday, the batons now being imported are designed for crowd control and the deal involves about R200,000. The deal, however, allegedly contravened a part of the foreign assistance act which requires sales of "police items" to countries which have "a pattern of human rights violations" to be reported to the U.S. Congress.

This was apparently not done.

Col Coetzee said, however, the deal did not involve the police. "We have our own method of crowd control which does not include shock devices. There is no change in our method of crowd control."

It is known that crowd control is a matter of concern to the SAP. Since the 1976 riots during which scores of people were shot by police, top members of the force have been trying to find less violent ways to put down unrest.

Among methods looked at were water cannons, plastic bullets and canes. Water cannons as used in Europe were dismissed, apparently because of the lack of facilities in the areas in which they would be used.

In 1980, after police had shown off new batons, shields and helmets for use in crowd control, it was announced that the "karwat" or quirt--a type of riding whip--would be used.

Unlike a sjambok, it did not cause serious injuries such as broken bones.

CSO: 4700/1955

TUTU DEFENDS CHURCH INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS

MB221324 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 22 Sep 82

[Text] The general secretary of the South African Council of Churches [SACC], Desmond Tutu, has defended the involvement of the church and its ministers in politics. Tutu has just returned from the United States. He was speaking in Durban this morning. Carmen Ricard reports:

[Ricard] If God did not care about mysterious deaths in detention he would be a useless and irrelevant God. That is according to SACC's Bishop Desmond Tutu, who was speaking at a 2-day workshop for church leaders organized by the Durban Ecumenical Agency (DICONIA). But, says Bishop Tutu, God does care enormously about these deaths, and about hungry children in resettlement camps, and whether people have a roof over their heads. So, he says, the church too must care for these issues. When human and divine laws conflict, he adds, we have no choice but to obey the laws of God. It was clear from the Bible that God rejected religion that had nothing to do with politics or economics, and that he took sides with the poor.

There can be no neutrality, said Tutu, because to be neutral is already to have taken sides with the power oppressor.

CSO: 4700/1966

SOUTH AFRICA

FRENCH DENY REPLACING CUBANS IN ANGOLA

Capetown DIE BURGER in Afrikaans 23 Sep 82 p 3

[Text] London--The French ministry of foreign affairs in Paris yesterday flatly denied that France is thinking of sending troops to Angola to replace the Cuban forces propping up the MPLA Government in Luanda. Spokesman Pierre Vimont yesterday told DIE BURGER "There is no talk of that."

Mr. Vimont was reacting to rumors picked up in European diplomatic circles that France had decided to offer to replace the Cuban forces in Angola.

The withdrawal of the Cuban forces is a critical U.S. precondition for further progress in settling the South West Africa issue. Prime Minister P.W. Botha last week at the Transvaal NP congress in Pretoria laid heavy emphasis on the need for the Cuban forces to pull out of Angola before there can be any talk of a free and fair election in SWA.

Prime Minister

It was also reported yesterday in Johannesburg that in a dramatic attempt to rescue the SWA settlement plan, France is willing to offer to have French troops replace the Cubans.

Prime Minister P.W. Botha, when asked by DIE BURGER about this matter yesterday evening, stated: "I know nothing about it."

Our political editor reports that certain diplomatic and security circles in South Africa do not in fact consider speculations about "other" troops as so far-fetched, since the MPLA regime in Angola simply does not feel secure in power and may possibly be casting about for other troops instead of Cubans to help keep it in power.

The latest momentum of the SWA settlement recently slackened somewhat since there has obviously been little progress in the U.S. engagement to see to it that the Cubans pull out of Angola. Although the withdrawal of the Cubans is not linked with the SWA settlement by the international community, for South Africa it remains the key to implementation of the settlement for a free election to be held.

South Africa agreed to continue negotiating on the basis of resolution 435 only because of an engagement by the U.S. to see to it that the Cubans pull out of Angola.

SOUTH AFRICA

BRIEFS

EDUCATION SYSTEM NOT THREATENING--The educational standards for white South Africans will remain unchanged in the process of creating an equal-education system for all. So says National Education Minister Gerrit Viljoen. He says the present Christian-based and mother tongue education system will be retained for whites. Viljoen has reassured people during a speech in Hartswater, that whites should not feel threatened by an equal-education system. He added that there would have to be a move away from the system of totally free tuition, and parents would have to become more involved. [Text] [MB230909 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0800 GMT 23 Sep 82]

ASSISTANCE OFFERED EL AL--South African Airways has offered additional assistance to the Israeli airline El Al which has been closed down for 30 days. El Al's general manager in Southern Africa, Mr (Eliachu Geliadi), said in Johannesburg this morning that the help could take the form of one or more special flights by SAA to Tel Aviv next week, but that final arrangements would still have to be made. Mr (Geliadi) was approached for comment after reports said that the El Al Airline had been closed down for 30 days yesterday, and that the board of directors was threatening to dis-mantle the airline unless major changes were made by management. The move was taken after the airline had suspended its passenger flights a week ago in response to an illegal strike by air stewards. [Text] [MB230946 JOHANNESBURG Domestic Service in English 0900 GMT 23 Sep 82]

CSO: 4700/1955

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